



CITY OF ROCKFORD

Steve J. Jazwiec, Mayor
Michael F. Young, City Manager

PO Box 561 Rockford, Michigan 49341-0561 T 616-866-1537 F 616-866-6406 www.rockford.mi.us

November 14, 2011

Blake Krueger, CEO
Wolverine World Wide
9341 Courtland Drive
Rockford MI 49351

Dear Blake:

We, the Rockford City Council, feel it important to write to you to express our support to Wolverine World Wide (WWW), as you work through redevelopment of the tannery complex in downtown Rockford. We have monitored this process since it was announced several years ago that WWW would be closing down the tannery. We appreciate the close relationship your staff has with the City's staff, not only on this project, but historically on the various issues that face both of our organizations. The commitment to our community by WWW is unparalleled and it is clear that your contribution to the City of Rockford and the region as a whole has helped make us one of the more desirable locations in the State of Michigan.

We have recently had the opportunity to review the EPA petition submitted by Ms. McIntosh, Ms. Mancewicz, and Mr. Medich. We are deeply concerned and disappointed by the tone of the petition. The petition is short on facts; long on emotion; and rife with questionable accusations. We have received frequent updates from the City Manager and staff during the pre-demolition phase and demolition itself. We know that staff completed daily inspections of the site and have found WWW to be in compliance with the permit conditions placed on this project. It should also be noted that an overwhelming majority of the public supports the efforts of WWW and the redevelopment of this property and it is clear that the accusations made by a small group of individuals are not reflective of the community as a whole. We would also like to compliment WWW on the recent public meeting you held, which gave the community at large an opportunity to hear directly from WWW on the redevelopment efforts. From all indications, the initial round of testing looks promising and we are anxiously awaiting the results of your continued monitoring of the property. We are currently communicating with the DEQ and EPA officials through City staff to provide factual information from our perspective on the redevelopment process and also to address the inaccuracies found throughout the petition.

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Page two

We appreciate the continued support of WWW and want you to know that you have ours. Thank you again for all of your efforts.

Sincerely,

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Steve Jazwiec, Mayor



Brien Dews, Mayor Pro-tem



Mary Eadie, Council Member



Richard P. Moll, Council Member



Jerry Coon, Council Member